



Slice of Soil

One of the most important natural resources on the earth's surface is **soil**. Many living things depend on it as a source of food, either directly or indirectly.

You can conduct the following demonstration to show how little of the earth's surface is actually used for food production.

Materials:

Large apple (softer apples work better)
Paring knife (or heavy plastic knife)

Procedures:

1. Cut the apple into four equal parts. Three parts represent the oceans of the world. The fourth part represents the land area.
2. Cut the land section in half lengthwise. Now you have two 1/8th pieces. One section represents land such as deserts, swamps, Antarctic, arctic, and mountain regions. The other 1/8th section represents land where man can live and may be able to grow food.
3. Slice this 1/8th section crosswise into four equal parts. Three of these 1/32nd sections represent the areas of the world which are too rocky, too wet, too hot, or where soils are too poor for production, as well as areas developed by man.
4. Carefully peel the last 1/32nd section. This small bit of peeling represents the soil of our earth on which mankind depends for food production!

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